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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the people affected due to heavy rains in Tamil Nadu.

DR. K. KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI) : The people of Tamil Nadu have experienced unprecedented and continuous heavy rains due to North East Monsoon during last month. The rains inundated Chennai city and many districts like Cuddalore, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, Villupuram and Nagapattinam. More than hundred people have lost their lives. Thousands of people lost their homes and cattle. More than one lakh acres of land and crops have been submerged with water. The essential infrastructure like highways, rural roads, railway tracks, bridges, canals and water bodies have been completely damaged. Electrical polls uprooted and cables were damaged and resulting in disruption of power supply to the Chennai city and hundreds of villages.

The Tamil Nadu Government immediately initiated the precautionary and relief works. Thousands of people in the affected areas have been evacuated and provided with food, medicine and temporary shelters. The restoration of damaged infrastructure like roads, electricity, canals, lakes etc. are being repaired by the state machinery round the clock on a war footing. The State Government has ordered for the release of Rs.500 crore initially for relief works.

The State Government has sought the financial assistance from the Central Government to alleviate the suffering of the people in the affected districts. The Central government should act pro-actively and immediately release adequate funds for providing financial assistance to affected farmers,

compensation to families whose members died, their homes, cattle and properties destroyed and for repairing and relaying of the roads, bridges, canal bunds and water storage bodies. The Central Government should also come forward to waive the agricultural and farm loans obtained from the nationalised banks and state cooperative banks.